



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Katsutoshi NOSAKI et al.

Attorney Docket No: 107348-00096

Serial Number: 09/804,083

Group Art Unit: 1741

Filed: March 13, 2001

Examiner: Thomas H. Parsons

For: WATER ELECTROLYTIC APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 18, 2002

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of the above-identified application on its merits, Applicants respectfully submit the following clarifying comments.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. This Preliminary Amendment is intended to clarify certain erroneous comments presented in the Advisory Action dated November 4, 2002. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented.

In particular, it is noted that the Advisory Action alleges the amendments in the Response dated September 3, 2002 raise an issue of new matter. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that such a statement is clearly in error as every feature recited by the pending claims is shown in the originally filed drawings of the present application, and particularly in Figure 2.

The Advisory Action alleges that the recitation "said anode and cathode have a uniform thickness throughout" raises a new matter issue because the added claim feature is not supported by the original disclosure. Applicants respectfully, but

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forcefully, disagree with the allegation since originally filed drawing Figure 2 clearly shows the anode 7 and cathode 11 having uniform thicknesses throughout and as such, provide sufficient support for the recited claim feature.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the features recited by the pending claims, as amended in the Response dated September 3, 2002, introduce new matter.

Prompt and favorable disposition of the application are respectfully requested..

Respectfully submitted,
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